



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

NEWS RELEASE

SNAKE RIVER BASIN OFFICE

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PUBLIC ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE DRAFT RECOVERY PLAN FOR THREATENED EASTERN OREGON PLANT

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has released a draft recovery plan for Howell's spectacular thelypody (*Thelypodium howellii* ssp. *spectabilis*). The plant was listed as threatened in May, 1999 under the Endangered Species Act. A member of the mustard family, Howell's spectacular thelypody occurs on private lands in Baker and Union counties in northeastern Oregon.

The species grows in alkaline meadows in valley bottoms, near shrubs such as greasewood or rabbitbrush. Thelypody is threatened by grazing during spring and early summer, trampling, urban development, and competition from non-native plants.

The Service is seeking review of the recovery plan for the plant, including comments on recovery objectives, strategy and criteria; programs available to promote recovery; and estimated costs of tasks as defined in the plan. The objective of the recovery plan is to provide a framework for species recovery in its natural habitat so that protection of the Act is no longer necessary. It identifies species and habitat factors of concern for those considering activities that may affect the species. The plan also describes tasks that when accomplished, should ensure the species' survival and eventual removal from the endangered and threatened species list.

The draft recovery plan is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Snake River Basin Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368, Boise, Idaho 83709. Information and comments are invited, and may be submitted directly to the Service at the above address; by fax at (208) 378-5262; or by electronic submission at the following e-mail address: FW1SRBOComment@fws.gov. The subject line must state "Thelypodium Comments," with the name and address of person submitting comments included in the message. Comments received by June 25, 2001 will be considered in the development of the final recovery plan for this species.

If you have any questions regarding the draft recovery plan or are in need of more information, please contact Edna Rey-Vizgirdas, Snake River Basin Office botanist, at (208) 378-5243.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 94-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 535 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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